GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3099
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2015
Operation of Flights at Shimla Airport
Kashyap Shri Virender

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shimla airport in Himachal Pradesh is not functioning for the last many years, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the time by which operation of the flight at Shimla airport is likely to start;

(c) whether the Government has any plan/proposal for establishing Airport of International Standard in Himachal Pradesh including Shimla; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a): Kingfisher airline was operating on daily basis at Shimla Airport till September, 2012. However, no scheduled airlines has shown further interest in flight operations at Shimla Airport due to various operational, topographical and security constraints. Presently, Shimla Airport is an operational airport under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) conditions.

(b): Airports Authority of India (AAI) has completed runway carpeting work, widening of runway, re-installation of runway edge light fittings, commissioning of Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) and has also undertaken measures to prevent soil erosion for operations of ATR-42 type of aircrafts. However, it is upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon traffic demand, commercial viability, provision of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) by the State Government, etc.

(c): There is no such plan/proposal for establishment of airport of international standards in Himachal Pradesh. However, development of airports is a continuous process which is undertaken by AAI from time to time depending upon availability of land, commercial viability, technical feasibility, grant of mandatory clearances and requisite support from the concerned State Government.

(d): Does not arise.